

PHTHORIMAEA OPERCULELLA (ZELL.) IN KENT.—On the 27th June, 1975 I took a specimen of *Phthorimaea operculella* (Zell.) in my light trap in Sidcup. The species is seldom seen in the wild in Britain but is a serious pest of the potato in warmer climates. Dr. Bradley kindly identified the specimen. — J. ROCHE, 16 Frimley Court, Sidcup Hill, Sidcup, Kent.

THE DINGY SHEARS (ENARGIA YPSILLON D. & S.) IN IRELAND.—I netted a specimen of this moth using an m.v. bulb in the "Murragh Marshes", Newcastle, Co. Wicklow (Irish Grid Ref. 03103) on the 20th July, 1976. Identification was confirmed by Dr. J. P. O'Connor of the Natural History Museum, Dublin. Baynes states in his catalogue of Irish Macrolepidoptera that it was first recorded by Birchall from Co. Wicklow (no date given). Kane dropped the record because it was "probably" recorded on "insufficient authority". Elsewhere in Ireland three specimens have been recorded: one from Co. Antrim and two from Co. Dublin (caught by Baynes in 1960 and 1963). Thus it now appears that Birchall's record was probably true. — DAVID N. DOWLING, 111 Capaghmore Estate, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin.

THE HUMMING-BIRD HAWK IN EASTBOURNE.—I recorded the capture of this immigrant at buddleia here in 1976 on the following dates: 23rd August at 1.40 p.m.; 24th August at 1.20 p.m.; 25th August at 1.30 p.m.; 26th August at 12.20 p.m.; 6th September at 2.05 p.m.; 8th September at 4.25 p.m.; 14th September at 6.45 p.m.; 19th September at 12.30 p.m. — M. PARSONS, 43 King's Avenue, Eastbourne, Sussex.

CYCLOPHORA PUPILLARIA HBN. AND LITHOPHANE LEAUTIERI BOISD. IN NORTH-WEST SURREY.—The night of 8th October, 1976 proved to be a "Blair's night" at my m.v. light trap here for it brought a ♂ *C. pupillaria* (Blair's Mocha) and the first record of this species here. As a bonus, the trap also revealed a fair specimen of *L. leautieri* (Blair's Shoulder-knot) and likewise a first record for here. This last species seems to be increasing its range rapidly. — K. G. W. EVANS, 31 Havelock Road, Croydon, Surrey, CRO 6QQ.

A NOTE ON SOME BUTTERFLIES SEEN IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE IN 1976.—In one of the best and most exciting seasons I have enjoyed, people with no knowledge or interest in insects were soon noticing and talking about the numbers of butterflies in their gardens, especially on buddleia bushes. Though one of the most prolific of seasons, it was disappointing to see neither *Colias croceus* Fourc. nor *C. hyale* L., and upon recently raising this point with Mr. Peter Cribb, he told me that large areas on the Continent that were formerly acres of lucerne are now mostly given up to cereals.

On 26th May, Mr. Alan Sharman and I found on some of the most sick-looking elm trees a few larvae of *Thecla w-album* Knoch, after searching locally and finding none until we reached the county boundaries. There must be some question now as to the well-being of this species in Northampton-